

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested,

Claims 1-16 are pending for consideration in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9 have been amended and new Claims 10-16 have been added to better clarify the present invention without the introduction of any new matter.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 7, 8, and 9 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and Claims 1-9 were apparently¹ rejected as being anticipated by Seazholtz et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,594,788, Seazholtz).

In preparing the present Amendment, several inconsistencies were noted that are corrected by the amendments to the specification and the drawing correction letter presented herewith for the examiner's approval.

The present Amendment further removes the objected to language "and/or," "particular," "other industrial process," "partly," "narrowband connection," "voice recognition task," and "media streams" from Claims 1, 7, 8, and 9 so as to render the rejection of these claims under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 no longer applicable. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

Before considering the prior art rejection, it is again believed that a brief summary of the present invention would be helpful. In this regard, the present invention provides a system including a plurality of service suppliers each having at least one customer server being connected with a shared host server over a network. This shared host server is also connected to receive user service requests over the network that each relate to the individual

¹The actual statement of the rejection is that Claims 1-2, 8-10, and 16-20 are rejected on this ground which makes no sense as only Claims 1-9 were presented. The discussion of the rejection at pages 5-8 of the outstanding Action further treat only Claims 1-9.

services that each of the service suppliers provides. The host server receives user service requests and identifies the service supplier associated with each received service request and forwards notification of the received service request to the customer server at the identified service supplier for execution of service logic. See page 5, lines 3-29, for example.

Turning to the outstanding anticipation rejection of Claims 1-9 based upon Seazholtz, it is noted that the system of base independent Claim 1 of this group requires that at least one customer server is located at each one of a plurality of service suppliers and each customer server is configured to be connected to a network along with a shared resources host server. As disclosed, these service suppliers are independent companies of various different types such as ticket venders, travel agents, etc., who use the shared resources host server in different ways peculiar to their different services.

In this last respect, and as further specified by base independent Claim 1 of this group, the shared resources host server is configured to receive service requests from users also connected to the network and to initially respond to each received service request to determine the service supplier concerned therewith, and to then direct each received service request to the at least one customer server at the concerned service supplier for execution of a respective service logic associated with services provided by the concerned service supplier.

Pages 5-6 of the outstanding Action suggest that the “Service Switching Points” (SSP) of Seazholtz can be **REASONABLY** interpreted to correspond to the “customer servers” required by base independent Claim 1 of this group while each central office switching system (CO) can be **REASONABLY** interpreted to correspond to the separately claimed “service supplier.” This interpretation is not **REASONABLE**, however, because col. 13, lines 26-33 of Seazholtz make it clear that “each central office switching system

(CO) 11, 13, 15, 17 is labeled as an “SSP” and refers to the “CO-SSP’s” as single entities that “are end offices.”

Page 6 of the outstanding Action also suggests that integrated services control point (ISCP) can be interpreted to correspond to the “shared resources host server” required by base independent Claim 1 of this group even though it further notes that Claim 1 requires that the “shared resources host server” must receive service requests from users and respond to each received user service request “to determine the service supplier concerned therewith, and to then direct each received service request to the at least one customer server at the concerned service supplier for execution of a respective service logic associated with services provided thereby.”

Instead of addressing this claim language, page 6 of the outstanding Action again attempts to suggest that the requirement for users who are also connected to the network can be ignored and that these “users” can then be UNREASONABLY interpreted to be a part of the ISCP itself in terms of the Service Management System (SMS) noted at col. 14, line 60 of Seazholtz. Moreover, if the SMS is interpreted to be the claimed users, how can the Action then suggest that service requests from the SMS are used by the “SCP” data base also a part of the ISCP to respond in any manner to the SMS requests to “determine the service supplier concerned therewith,” bearing in mind that the service suppliers have been interpreted to be CO’s 11, 13, 15, and 17? There is clearly nothing inherently relating the CO’s 11, 13, 15, and 17 to the SMS’s.

For the above noted reasons and because Seazholtz does not teach a plurality of customer servers at service supplier locations or any manner of selecting one of them depending on the type of service request received, the anticipation rejection based upon the teachings of Seazholtz is traversed as to Claim 1 and Claims 2-9 that depend thereon. In

addition, as each of Claims 2-9 adds additional features not taught or suggested by Seazholtz, the rejection of these claims is traversed for this reasons as well.

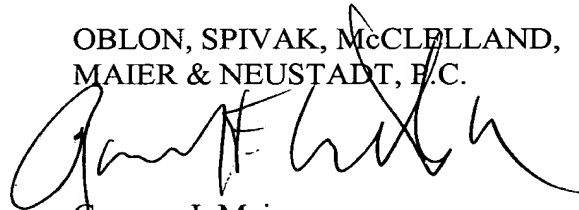
Moreover, as new Claims 10 and 11 depend on Claim 1, they clearly patentably define over the teachings and fair suggestions of Seazholtz for the same reasons that Claim 1 does as well as because of the additional features that they add to Claim 1 that are also not taught or suggested by Seazholtz.

Furthermore, new independent base Claim 12 recites features of the shared resources host server similar to those noted above that are also clearly not taught or suggested by Seazholtz, it is believed that Claim 12 and Claims 13-16 also clearly paterntably define over Seazholtz.

As no further issues are believed to be outstanding relative to this application, it is believed that this application is clearly in condition for a formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record
Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
GJM:RFC/jmp

I:\atty\rfc\105970001-am2.wpd

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 10, line 33 to page 11, line 2, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--• When the [customer] user who is calling the customer server is not controlled by the network operator, the A and B components have to be put on the host server. This is the method used in the above example.--

Page 11, lines 3-8, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

• However, if the network operator can, it is better to extract significant components at the [customer] user in order to make less use of the passband on the network between the [customer] user and the host server. This extraction phase requires very little calculation power.

Page 11, lines 9-13, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--For example, if the [client] user is an IP telephony software, the significant components extraction module may appear like a new speech encoder. The host server then negotiates with the [customer] user for use of this encoder during the connection.--

Page 11, lines 14-20, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--Another possible embodiment is to put a software component in a specialized displayed HTML page (ActiveX or Java) that interfaces with voice resources on the [customer] user station and only sends significant components of the voice data stream to the

host server. Thus, a specialized page can be created which reacts to voice, as in the example in figure 3.--

Page 11, lines 25-32, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

--In this example embodiment, the [customer] user is a software object ("ActiveX or Java") integrated in a specialized page. This object sends significant voice data stream components input on the [customer] user station computer to the host server. It can do this using the RTP protocol on the IP network, or simply the TCP protocol if the reaction time is not a major constraint.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Amended) A distributed multimedia data system, comprising:

a [wide area] network[, the confidentiality and security of which are not controlled from end to end];

at least one customer server located at each one of a plurality of service suppliers, each customer server being configured to be connected to the [wide area] network; and

a shared [voice] resources [and/or video resources] host server connected to the [wide area] network and configured to receive therefrom [particular] service requests from users also connected to the [wide area] network and to initially respond to each received [particular] service request to determine the [particular] service supplier concerned therewith, and to then direct each [particular] received service request to the at least one customer server at the concerned [particular] service supplier for execution of [particular] a respective service logic associated with services provided thereby.

2. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the shared [voice] resources [and/or video resources] host server is connected to the [wide area] network through an interface and comprises:

a protocol stack subsystem with an interface that:

- receives calls from a data network at an exchange;
- detects incoming calls and captures caller and called party numbers;
- detects dial tones;
- generates coding-decoding media data streams; and
- receives media coding-decoding data streams;

a command interpreter subsystem that:

- generates messages on detection of new calls to each customer server;
- generates event messages; and
- uses the commands from the customer servers.

6. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein each customer server is provided as software running at each one of the plurality of service suppliers that receives events signaled by the shared [voice] resources [and/or video resources] host server and provides commands in reaction to these events.

7. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 6, wherein the software is running on a computer at each one of the plurality of service suppliers, the computer being provided with two network interfaces, one network interface being connected to the [wide area] network to communicate with the shared [voice] resources [and/or video resources] host server and the other network interface being connected to a company private network in order to dialog with customer databases [and other industrial processes].

8. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the shared resources within the host server include a voice recognition [task is partly distributed to a personal computer used by the user so that only a narrow band connection is required between the user and the shared voice resources and/or video resources host server] means operating on input data representing voice parameters calculated in a user's station.

9. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein [media streams are provided to a shared media resource in the shared voice resources and/or video resources host server in a manner allowing the shared media resource to switch calls without always handling the media stream locally by routing each media stream directly through a network apart from a path for control signals] the network is an IP network.

Claims 10-16 (New).--